

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A decorative base paper for decorative coating materials, comprising a pigment mixture of titanium dioxide and talc, wherein the talc has a content of 0.1 to 25 wt% based on the total pigment content, and a particle size distribution D50 of less than approximately $2.0\mu\text{m}$, and wherein said paper has an opacity which is substantially the same as a paper having said pigment mixture in the absence of said talc.

2. (Original) A decorative base paper according to claim 1, wherein the talc has a specific surface area of more than approximately $30,000\text{ m}^2/\text{kg}$.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) A decorative base paper according to claim 1, wherein the paper contains cationically modified cellulose fibers.

5. (Original) A decorative base paper according to claim 4, wherein the cellulose fibers are modified with quaternary ammonium compounds with glycidyl function.

6. (Currently Amended) A decorative paper or decorative sheet containing a decorative base paper, said base paper comprises a pigment mixture of titanium dioxide and talc, wherein the talc has a content of 0.1 to 25wt% based on the total pigment content, and the talc has a particle size distribution D50 of less than approximately $2.0\mu\text{m}$, and wherein said base paper has an opacity which is substantially the same as a base paper having said pigment mixture in the absence of said talc.